

Members

Rep. Sheila Klinker, Chairperson
Rep. Robert Alderman
Sen. Marvin Riegsecker
Sen. Rose Ann Antich-Carr
Suda Hopkins
Betty Williams
Christopher Durcholz
Sally Lowery
Scott MacGregor
Joanne Warner
Sylvia Marie Brantley
Daniel Harshman



COMMISSION ON MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: August 25, 2004
Meeting Time: 1:00 P.M.
Meeting Place: 2000 Greenbush Street, Wabash Center
Meeting City: Lafayette, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Rep. Sheila Klinker, Chairperson; Rep. Robert Alderman; Sen. Marvin Riegsecker; Suda Hopkins; Betty Williams; Christopher Durcholz; Sally Lowery; Joanne Warner; Sylvia Marie Brantley; Daniel Harshman.

Members Absent: Sen. Rose Ann Antich-Carr; Scott MacGregor.

1. Call to Order and Introductions: Representative Shelia Klinker, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. and welcomed those present to Lafayette. Chairperson Klinker thanked the Wabash Center for providing lunch for Commission members and asked the members and those present to introduce themselves. The minutes from the August 4, 2004, joint meeting with the Commission on Mental Health were approved.

2. Comments from Lisa Shaw-Gretencord: Ms. Shaw-Gretencord told the members of the Commission about the importance of First Steps and how her son has benefitted from the program. She also discussed the difficulties she had in receiving a proper diagnosis for her son and urged those present to give support to young parents in pursuing a proper diagnosis.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

3. Discussion of Nighttime Companion, Mr. Jeff Darling, President, Wabash Center: Mr. Darling provided a handout (Exhibit 1) outlining the Nighttime Companion program and presented a demonstration to show how the tracking system works. Mr. Darling said that eighty to ninety percent of what is done in supported living situations can be done electronically. The program at the Wabash Center should be given a larger test in the state. Mr. Darling discussed the system in Wisconsin on which the nighttime companion program is based.

In answer to questions, Mr. Darling indicated that the system will not work for everyone. Persons with a history of elopement do not make good candidates. There were a number of questions concerning back up systems when there are power failures and system crashes. Mr. Darling stated that there are batteries to back up the equipment when there is a power failure and that in the worst case scenario the person monitoring the system can call for assistance from reserve staff. Mr. Darling said that as the program expands, there will be more than one person watching the monitors at any given time. Also, there are plans for technical back up. Mr. Darling stated that any issues related to the federal privacy rules can be handled by having the clients sign the appropriate waivers. If there is a need to send persons to several sites at the same time, there are back up floaters who can be called upon. Mr. Darling will provide the members with information on the start up costs of the program.

4. Discussion of Family and Social Services Agency (FSSA) grant for Alzheimer's tracking system, Ms. Kristen Schunk, Interim Director, Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services (DDARS), FSSA: Ms. Schunk explained that FSSA has a grant for a similar tracking system for persons with Alzheimer's. (Exhibit 2) The grant is for \$311,000. The main difference in the programs covered by that grant and the Nighttime Companion program is that the tracking is usually done by the main care givers for the Alzheimer's patients. The program has a maximum of four cameras per home. The equipment cost is \$7,900 per home. In order to expand the service, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) would need to allow this as a replacement service. In answer to a question, Ms. Schunk indicated that she did not know if legislation would be required to expand the program. However, if CMS has allowed the program in other states, it is likely that legislation would not be required.

5. Update on Closing of Muscatatuck:

(a) Kristen Schunk: Ms. Schunk reported that there are now seventy-four residents at Muscatatuck. The closure of Muscatatuck and Fort Wayne has been much smoother than the closure of hospitals ten years ago. The planning process is much improved. The planning for closure is person-centered. The Bureau of Quality Assurance and the transition teams for the closure of Muscatatuck and Fort Wayne that are in place insure that the transition goes smoothly. Money is following the persons into the community. The southwest regional team provides follow up services to former residents. In answer to questions, Ms. Schunk agreed that additional teams throughout the state would be helpful. Ms. Schunk will get the Commission more information on the regional teams and provide information on monitoring procedures for persons who are placed outside the state.

There were also questions about how long FSSA tracks the money spent on individuals who leave an institution and are placed in the community. Members of the Commission wanted to know if money saved from closing institutions could be funneled back to increase services in the community or if the money was just returned to the State General Fund. Ms. Schunk will provide information to the members on this issue.

Ms. Schunk reported on the status of staff at closed facilities. In July, twenty persons were laid off at Muscatatuck. The Department of Workforce Development is helping to provide training for five hundred eighty staff persons. DDARS is trying to integrate as many employees as possible into the FSSA staff. There was some discussion of the disposition of the property. (Attached please find Exhibit 3 which is an article from the Indianapolis Star dated September 1, 2004, on use of the facilities at Muscatatuck.)

b. Ms. Nanette Whightsel, Director of Family Education and Community Resources, the Arc of Indiana: Ms. Whightsel provided the members with information on success stories of individuals who have left Muscatatuck and been placed in the community. (Exhibit 4) Ms. Whightsel reported that, based on her experience, ninety per cent of the families are happier with community placements.

(6) Annual DDARS Update, Ms. Kristen Schunk: Ms Schunk provided the members with information on the 317 Plan. (Exhibit 5) Ms. Schunk reported that the waiting lists for services are still large. It would cost \$412 million to fund services for persons on all of the waiting lists. There was discussion on reversions made by DDARS. DDARS is expecting a deficit of \$38 million for FY 2004-05. For the previous fiscal year, the deficit was covered by other funds within FSSA, but the deficit for FY 2004-05 is too great to cover.

(7) Discussion of Legislation: Because of time constraints and the fact that there will only be three meetings of the Commission, legislative proposals will be distributed to the members for comment before the next meeting so that comments can be considered and changes made prior to the meeting. Proposals will be approved at the next meeting.

(8) Next Meeting: The next and final meeting will be held **Wednesday, October 6, at 1:30, in Room 233 of the State House.**

(Exhibit 6, concerning waiting lists for individuals with developmental disabilities, and Exhibit 7, concerning funding for persons served under the 317 Plan, were provided to the members by the Arc of Indiana. Exhibit 8, concerning funding for the Nighttime Companion tracking program, was provided to the members by Ms. Sarah Brooks of the Legislative Services Agency. These exhibits were presented to members without discussion during the meeting.)